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ABSTRACT

Activities of the Alabama State Commission on Higher Education are described. Three sections discuss the following: (1) planning and coordination activities (unified budget recommendation, statewide planning process, research and service program inventory, new program approval, off-campus instruction, non-resident institutional review, conference on assessment in Alabama higher education, and publication of statistical information); (2) state level support activities for higher education (Eminent Scholars Program, Alabama Universities--TVA Research Consortium, Experimental Project to Stimulate Competitive Research, Alabama Industrial Council on Engineering Education, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, Academic Common Market, and Title II of the Education for Economic Security Act); and (3) student financial assistance activities (Alabama Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Alabama Student Grant Program, Alabama Student Assistance Program, Emergency Secondary Education Scholarship Program, State of Alabama Chiropractic Scholarship Program, Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program, Police Officer's & Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program, and summary chart on state supported student assistance). Highlights of the accomplishments of the year 1987-88 include approval of a set of comprehensive policies for higher education and an agreement by the colleges and universities and the Commission on a division of the state's money available for higher education. (SM)

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ANNUAL REPORT—1987-88
ALABAMA COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

1987-88

January 1989

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Philip A. Sellers
Montgomery

As the chairman of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to transmit the 1987-88 Annual Report to Governor **Guy Hunt** and the members of the **Alabama Legislature**. In the pages of this report, you will find evidence of a new partnership in higher education and the promise of improvement that this partnership brings.

This reports the accomplishments and contributions of the Commission under the leadership of Chairman **Mrs. Jane McDonald** and Vice Chairman **Clyde Foster** who led the Commission in the 1987-88 fiscal year.

The comments from Mrs. McDonald in the following reflect her positive influence on the direction of the Commission.

This year, **Frank Nix** serves as vicechairman and in September, Mobile businessman **William L. Roberts, Jr.** was appointed to replace longtime Commissioner **Ken L. Lott,** whose contribution to the state during his tenure on the Commission is a testimony to his love of higher education.

I look forward to the coming year with confidence that the state of Alabama can expect the accomplishments outlined in this report to continue.

FROM THE PAST CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Jane McDonald Arab

When I was elected chairman two years ago, I set three goals for higher education in Alabama: one, to see the state move away from excessive competition toward increased cooperation; two, to see higher education emphasize quality rather than university size and three, to interject a statewide perspective into the cooperation of our state's system of higher education.

Considerable progress on each of these goals has been achieved as a result of a new partnership among Alabama's elected leaders, the Commission and the leaders of higher education in Alabama. The Commission's relationship with the college and university presidents has never been more productive as it was during 1987-88.

And I am especially pleased that the state's elected leadership — including Gov. **Guy Hunt,** Lt. Gov. **Jim Folsom,** House Speaker **Jimmy Clark,** Representative **Taylor Harper**, chairman, Ways and Means Committee; Senators **Fred Horn** and **Lowell Barron**, chairman and vice chairman respectively of Finance and Taxation Committee; and members of the finance and education committees of both houses of the Legislature — have been so involved in our deliberations and recommendations.

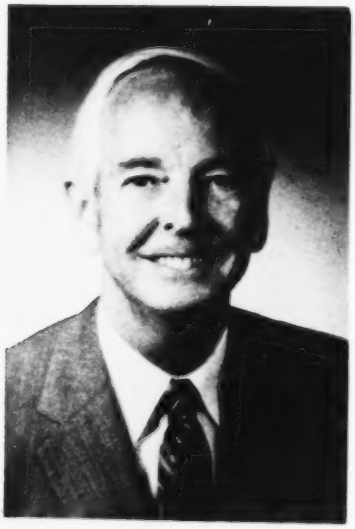
While serving as chairman, I learned that lasting, constructive change in higher education takes time and comes when the parties involved are dedicated to a cause and willing to stand up for it when necessary. Fondly, I want to commend the members of the Commission, the Council of College and University Presidents and the Commission's staff for these characteristics.

It is very rewarding to serve with Alabamians who are as dedicated as are the Commissioners and the staff. It is that sense of dedication and doing what is believed to be in the best interest of the state that will enable Alabama to continue progress toward its goals.

Mrs. Jane McDonald
Chairman of ACHE
Arab

Mr. Clyde Foster
Vice-Chairman of ACHE
Chairman, Personnel and Administration
Triana

Mrs. Katie D. Espy
Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee
Montgomery



Mr. Philip A. Sellers
Chairman, Student Assistance Committee
Montgomery

Mr. Ken L. Lott
Chairman, Financial Affairs Committee
Mobile

HIGHER EDUCATION 1987-88

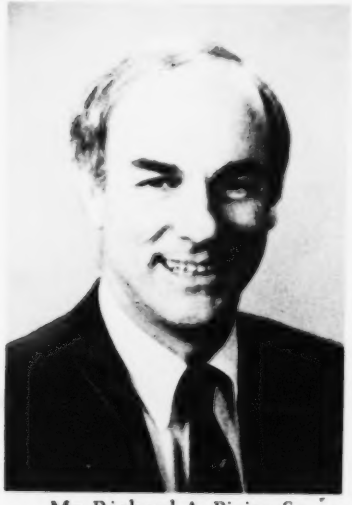
Dr. James D. Grady, III
Opelika

Mr. Charles F. Horton
Tuscaloosa

Mr. Steve Means
Gadsden

Mr. Borden Morrow
Daphne

Mr. Frank Nix
Birmingham



Mr. Richard A. Pizitz, Sr.
Birmingham

Mr. Bob Word
Scottsboro

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph T. Sutton

The past 12 months have been productive for Alabama's higher education community. The state's elected leaders—the Governor and the Legislature—and the higher education community—the Commission, university trustees and presidents—have forged improvements in our colleges and universities.

A number of the evidences of a new commitment are outlined in this Annual Report, but of significant merit was this year's budget agreement between the Commission, the Council of Presidents and the political leadership. Traditionally the budgeting process for higher education has been characterized by competition and distress. But this year a new spirit of cooperation prevailed.

The Commission on Higher Education is composed of 12 Alabamians who freely give of their time and abilities without financial compensation. I am grateful for the leadership and support of **Mrs. Jane McDonald** of Arab and **Mr. Clyde Foster** of Madison County, who served as chairman and vice-chairman, and to **Mr. Ken L. Lott**, **Mrs. Katie D. Espy** and **Mr. Philip A. Sellers**, who served as chairmen of the Commission's working committees.

Major improvements are within our grasp in Alabama: continuing the unified approach to budgeting; establishing incentive funding for research; establishing assessment criteria for programs and students; and relating funding to assessment outcomes!

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OVERVIEW

The varied activities of the Commission are outlined in the three sections of this report: Planning and Coordination Activities; State Level Support Activities for Higher Education; and Student Financial Assistance Activities.

Highlights of the accomplishments of the past year include approval of a set of comprehensive policies for higher education during 1987-88. These policies, which focus on the issues of institutional role, funding, and academic quality, form the cornerstone of a statewide plan for higher education.

For the first time in anyone's memory, the colleges and universities and the Commission agreed on a division of the state money available for higher education this year. This agreement led to a substantial reduction in political conflict and it moved the state one step closer to a predictable, objective method for funding its institutions of higher education.

The state's Eminent Scholars Program began to pay real dividends during 1988, with the first set of scholars arriving on at least four university campuses during 1987-88. The Legislature also approved an additional $5.2 million appropriation to the program, insuring that the total program of private and public funding will reach more than $40 million by the end of fiscal year 1988-89.

During 1988, nearly 12,000 students were awarded almost $6.4 million in state grants and scholarships and $61.6 million in federally-backed loans were made to 24,995 students and their parents.

The major advisory committees assisting the Commission include the Council of College and University Presidents, Council of Chief Academic Officers, Council of Graduate Deans, Council of Chief Financial Officers, Planning Liaison Group, Institutional Research/Analysis Officers, Alabama Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Council of Deans of Arts and Sciences, Council of Deans of Education and the ACHE Advisory Committee of the Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. In addition to these formal committees, the Commission benefited from comments and support of representatives of business and the many segments of the education community.

The Commission's full-time staff of about 90 is divided into two divisions—about 30 employees work in planning and coordination of academic and financial matters, and more than 60 employees work with the federal and state student financial aid programs.

PLANNING AND COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

UNIFIED BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

The Commission's 1988-89 Unified Budget Recommendation presented the Legislature and the Governor with the unique opportunity to consider a budget supported by all of higher education. The unanimous support for the budget was developed through months of sessions and hearings among the Council of College and University Presidents (**Dr. Asa Green**, chairman, pictured left below) and between the Council and the Commission and with political leaders. The budget included an "index" feature that allowed the budget recommendation to adjust according to the funds available in the educational trust fund.

This agreement between the institutions and the Commission represented the most significant testimony to the new sense of cooperation that gained momentum during 1988. The use of the "index" by the Governor and the Legislature and the adoption of the 1988-89 education budget by unanimous vote is evidence of a growing unity of purpose in Alabama's system of higher education.

Each year the Commission develops its budget recommendation for higher education based, in part, upon the calculations of production-based formulas designed to provide equitable funding to colleges and universities. Through the budget, the Commission presents a state-level effort to verify budgeting for all higher education.

A committee of institutional representatives was created to evaluate and research possible improvements in the formulas. As the Commission continues to look for ways to link budgeting to education planning and prudent public policy, this committee will play a significant role.

STATEWIDE PLANNING PROCESS

Statewide planning for the higher education needs of the state is essential in meeting the changing demands of the 1990's and insuring the efficient use of Alabama's tax dollars. In 1979, the Commission was designated by the Legislature as the only agency charged with long-range planning for all of higher education in Alabama. To fulfill its legislative mandate, the Commission moved forward with the state-level planning through three initiatives in 1987-88:

—The adoption and implementation of a set of state-level policies for higher education in Alabama;

—The review and analysis of the Annual Planning Statements of the public senior institutions; and

—The initiation of discussions with the Alabama Department of Post-secondary Education regarding planning activities in the two-year system.

Higher Education Policies

Through months of cooperation work with the institutions of higher education, the Commission adopted a comprehensive set of policies and implementation guidelines on:

—institutional role,
—the funding of higher education,
—academic issues such as: Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes; Preparation for College-Level Study; Admission Standards; General Education; Articulation; Programmatic Accreditation; and State-Level Program Review.

Implementation of these policies during fiscal year 1987-88 included sponsorship of the state's first conference on assessment, the initiation of a task force to develop a strategy to improve high school students' preparation for college, the collection of information on each institution's general education requirements, programmatic accreditation, and continuation of the review of existing programs.

The implementation of the Commission's policy calling for institutional role statements provided an opportunity to interject a statewide perspective to the Commission's on-going planning activities. Working with advisory committees of institutional representatives, the staff prepared guidelines for the development of a role statement for each university.

Analysis of Annual Planning Statements

In July of each year, the public senior institutions submit five-year planning statements which include the institution's plans to develop new programs of instruction, research, and service; goals to be reached during the five-year period, such as programmatic accreditations; plans for new facilities; and special problems to be addressed. The staff analyzed the 1987 Annual Planning Statements in detail and provided a written commentary to the institutions in May 1988.

Since the Annual Planning Statements list each university's plans for new programs for the next five-year period, the Commission attempts to identify potential program duplication at an early stage and to encourage cooperative, rather than duplicative, efforts. This process of information sharing, negotiation, and compromise serves to coordinate academic planning among public institutions.

An important element of the Annual Planning Statements is the review of existing programs of instruction, research, and service at the institutions. During 1987-88, the Commission staff received approximately 400 reports on program reviews conducted by the institutions. These campus reviews contribute to the quality of existing programs by identifying problems and focusing resources.

The review of existing programs includes all separately-organized research and service programs. This review of research and service programs is a part of the institutions' commitment to accountability and efficiency.

Planning in the Two-Year System

In March 1988, a new chancellor, Dr. Fred Gainous, was appointed to the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. From March to August, the staff held several meetings with Chancellor Gainous and his staff to discuss planning and to share draft documents and background information.

Facilities Planning

A continuing major concern in the area of planning for the physical facilities of higher education is the lack of a systematic, stable approach to financing renovation and construction of capital projects. The condition of the buildings on many of the state's college and university campuses will soon reach the critical stage, without a statewide plan for financing the needed renovation.

The Commission collects a biennial inventory report of campus facilities and space utilization that includes a description of each building, its condition and its uses. Condition Codes used for each building are as follows:

Satisfactory—Suitable for continued use with normal maintenance.

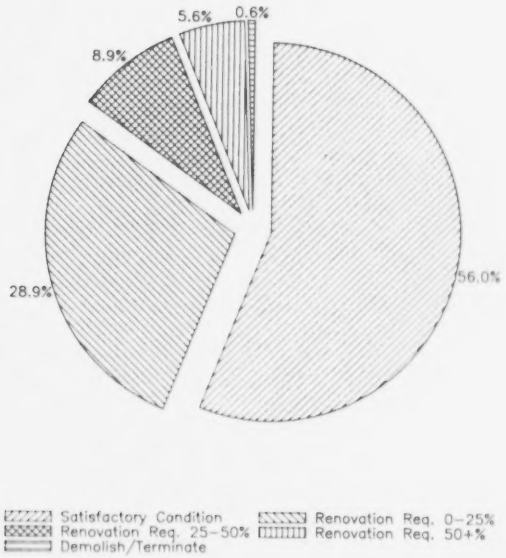
Renovation Required 0 to 25% — Requires restoration to present acceptable standards without major room-use changes, alterations or modernizations. The approximate cost of renovation is not greater than 25% of the estimated replacement cost of the building.

Renovation Required 25 to 50% — Requires major updating and/or modernization. The approximate cost of renovation is not greater than 50% of the estimated replacement cost of the building.

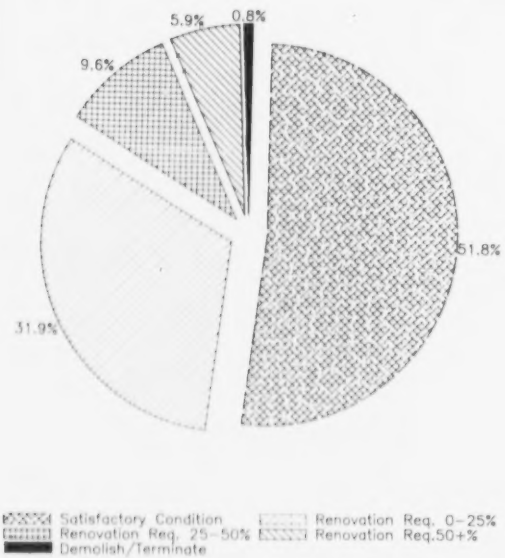
Renovation Required more than 50%—Requires major remodeling. The approximate cost of renovation is greater than 50% of the estimated replacement cost of the building.

Demolition/Termination—Should be demolished or abandoned because the building is unsafe or structurally unsound.

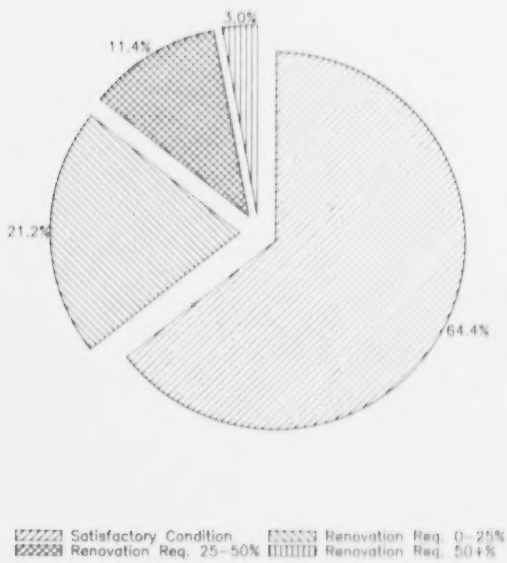
Conditions of Buildings Fall 1986 — All Sectors



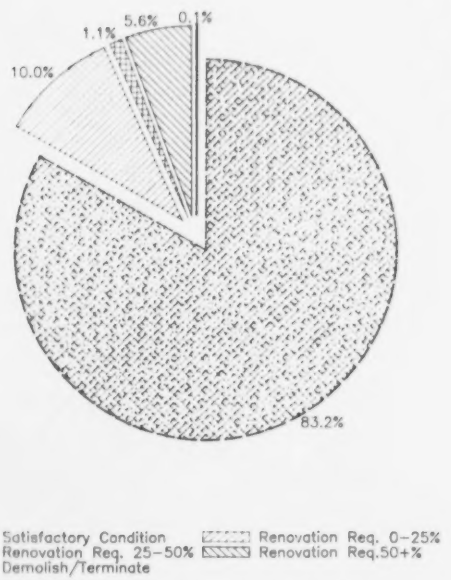
Conditions of Buildings Fall 1986 — Senior Institutions



Conditions of Buildings Fall 1986 — Technical Colleges



Conditions of Buildings Fall 1986 — Junior Colleges



RESEARCH AND SERVICE PROGRAM INVENTORY

During 1988, the Commission continued the process of developing an inventory of formally-organized research and service programs, agencies and other related activities at the public and private four-year universities. This inventory will identify the significant research and service programs in the institutions and will be a significant document for statewide planning.

NEW PROGRAM APPROVAL

During 1988, the Commission approved 16 new degree programs—five doctorates, one master's, four bachelors, four associates and two diplomas.

New review procedures require the submission of a full program proposal in January with preliminary consideration of the proposal in July. Upon preliminary approval, the proposing institution may submit a request for final approval six months later, or within five years.

Each program is evaluated for evidence of student demand for the program, the availability of employment for the graduates, possible duplication with existing programs, the cost of establishing the program and adequacy of resources. Consultants are used in the review of doctoral programs and, occasionally, in the review of other programs requiring special study.

When the new procedure was established, some 42 programs remained to be evaluated under the Commission's old procedures. However, through negotiations between the institutions and the Commission, this number has been reduced by more than half, leaving only 20 programs to be reviewed under the guidelines that were in place prior to 1986.

The review of programs from community, junior and technical colleges includes an official notification of an institution's intention to plan a program, a joint preliminary review by the Commission staff and the staff of the Department of Postsecondary Education and consultations with representatives from industry and institutions with similar programs.

NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED DURING 1987-88

Institution	Degree	Subject Area
A&M	Doctorate	Plant and Soil Science
ASU	Bachelors	Computer Science
AU	Doctorate	Management
AUM	Masters	Liberal Arts
JSU	Bachelors	Social Work
UA	Bachelors	Dance
UAB	Doctorate	Epidemiology
UA System	Doctorate	Materials
UA System	Doctorate	Applied Mathematics
UNA	Bachelors	Public Relations
Bishop State	Associate	Nursing
Hobson State	Associate	Process Industries Tech
Ingram State	Diploma	Data Processing
Jefferson Davis	Associate	Banking and Finance
Muscle Shoals	Diploma	Horticulture
Muscle Shoals	Associate	Electro Optics

OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

In 1988 the state's colleges and universities continued their efforts to provide educational access to the citizens of Alabama and the Commission approved almost 1,100 off-campus courses. Approval of courses offered at sites other than the main campus requires evidence that the Commission's criteria for such courses will be met. The criteria address such areas as need and student demand, duplication, quality of faculty and adequacy of facilities and learning resources.

NON-RESIDENT INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Each year, the Commission makes a site evaluation of the non-resident institutions under its purview. This review measures the quality of the offerings at each institution by evaluating their curriculum, attendance policy, admission requirements, faculty, placement rate of graduates and the marketing of their programs.

At the end of fiscal year 1987-88, 43 non-resident institutions were offering programs or units of instruction in the state of Alabama. Only 22 of these institutions are operating physical sites in the state; the others are approved to solicit students for out-of-state programs.

Only 11 of the institutions that have physical sites in Alabama are subject to Commission review under current statutes. The others are exempt because they are either incorporated in Alabama, offer courses of less than three quarters in length or only have licensed agents operating in Alabama.

All of the institutions reviewed by the Commission are accredited by regional or national accrediting agencies. The majority of the institutions offer two-year programs in the areas of business, health and technology.

CONFERENCE ON ASSESSMENT IN ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION

The state's first conference on the issue of accountability, or assessment of institutional effectiveness, was a natural outcome of the Commission's adoption of a statewide policy on the development of a method of assessment on each of the state's campuses. By focusing attention on the current trends and problems associated with carrying out a campus-wide assessment program, the Commission hoped to contribute to the institution's work on assessment.

More than 160 representatives of the colleges and universities participated in the conference held in July of 1988. The two-day event focused on the critical topics in assessment, such as the overall uses of assessment, the political issues surrounding assessment, the growing concern over accountability in higher education and the new accreditation requirement for assessing institutional effectiveness.

The conference also relied on the support of several other higher education groups: the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, the ACHE Council of University Chief Academic Officers, the ACHE Council of Graduate Deans and the Alabama Association for Institutional Research.

PUBLICATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

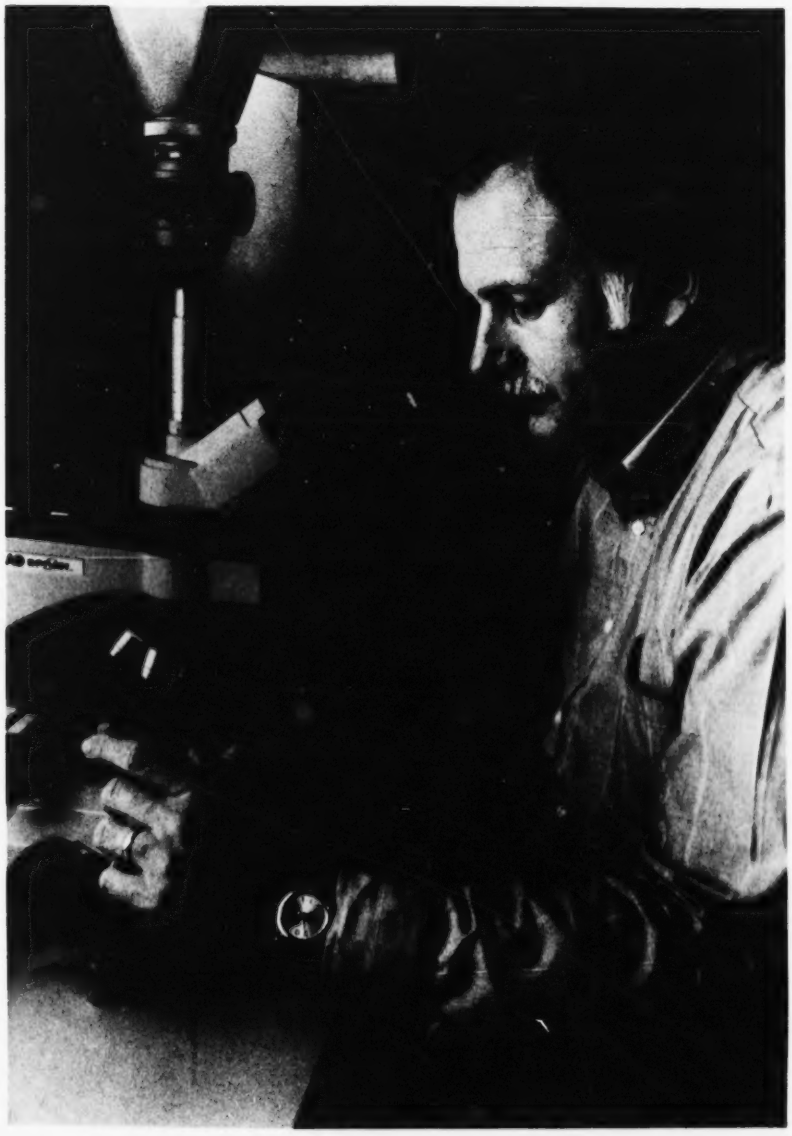
To fulfill its legislative mandates to collect information on Alabama's system of higher education and to provide advice and information to the Governor and Legislature, the Commission initiated the publication of detailed data on the state's universities and colleges.

This first comprehensive catalog of higher education statistical information—*Statistical Abstract: Higher Education In Alabama, 1986-87*, was distributed as a source document to university officials, legislative representatives and state leaders. This publication includes detailed information on each institution's enrollment, first-time freshmen, tuition and required fees, average faculty salaries, degrees conferred and expenditures and revenues.

The Commission also published a listing of quick facts on the universities and colleges in the state. The *Factbook: Higher Education in Alabama* includes the telephone numbers, addresses, tuition and enrollment of each college and university.

Copies of the 1987-88 edition of both publications are available through the office of the director of public relations.

STATE LEVEL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



EMINENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This program began to pay widespread dividends during 1987-88, with at least four campuses hiring acclaimed scholars. The Eminent Scholars Program makes grants of $400,000 available to universities that raise $600,000 in private funds. The resulting $1 million is invested, with the interest going to fund the scholars. The state matching money and private donations to the program now total more than $27.6 million, with another $13 million to be generated by the $5.2 million allocation in the 1988-89 education budget.

At the close of the fiscal year, several scholars were already on a number of campuses: Dr. C. Robert Taylor at Auburn University; Dr. John A. Carroll at Troy State University; Dr. Ndiwar Sarr at the University of Montevallo and several scholars were visiting Jacksonville State University in the fields of anthropology, physical fitness, psychology and others.

The 1987-88 education budget included a $2.2 million allocation to the program, making it possible for the Commission to match grants for Auburn University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, The University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of South Alabama.

The universities have now established 30 Eminent Scholars chairs and have commitments of private donations to finance several other chairs when state matching funds are available. This special project enables the universities to attract scholars of national reputation.

ALABAMA UNIVERSITIES—TVA RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (AUTRC)

The Alabama Universities—TVA Research Consortium (AUTRC) was established in 1984 "to stimulate cooperative research between scientists, engineers and economists" at Alabama universities and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The purpose of this program is to permit university researchers to make a vital and direct contribution to Alabama's competitiveness by focusing their expertise on creating a new marketable product or improving products already in use. Already, AUTRC is having a positive impact by focusing research expertise on many markets essential to Alabama's economy—farming, horticulture, fishing and hazardous waste disposal.

In 1988, more than $246,000 in grants was awarded to researchers at Alabama A&M University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Auburn University and the University of North Alabama. Each year research funding is awarded based on the quality and completeness of the proposal, the competency of the university's personnel, the proposal's contribution to economic development and potential for improving research linkages among the institutions and TVA.

The awards for 1987-88 are shown below.

AUTRC GRANT AWARDS
1987-88

UNIVERSITY	GRANT	SUBJECT OF RESEARCH
UNA	$30,000	Devise ways to avoid pollution of drinking water in Colbert and Lauderdale Counties by measuring the sensitivity of ground water systems to pollution sources.
UA	$29,971	Prevent seepage of chemical waste by testing the performance of Alabama clay as liners and wall barriers at chemical waste disposal sites.
AU	$28,858	Generate a possible new market in Alabama by evaluating ways to prevent pollution from chicken waste and exploring its use as a commercial fertilizer.
AU	$27,696	Improve the profitability of beef production in North Alabama by researching the impact of varying pasture environments on cattle growth.
A&M	$27,217	Upgrade the competitiveness of small farms in the Tennessee Valley area by teaching the farmers how to market their products and deal with factors common to small farms.
AU	$26,296	Generate a possible new market for chicken waste and cotton gin waste by evaluating its use in potting soil.
AU	$21,870	Improve forest production in Alabama by evaluating the efficient use of soil nutrients to increase pine production.
UAH	$20,000	Determine the marketability of a solar waste-treatment system that would be a lower-cost alternative for the disposing of hazardous waste.
UAB	$17,064	Devise ways to improve home-waste treatment centers in order to protect drinking water.
AU	$10,744	Improve the productivity of the cat-fish industry by conducting research on the development of a higher quality stock catfish with improved growth characteristics.
UAB	$ 6,975	Insure continued tourism income from fishermen on Lake Guntersville by monitoring the bass population on the lake and looking for ways to protect it.

EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

In 1986, Alabama was one of eight states awarded a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to stimulate the quality of its research and the ability of its scientists to compete for federal research contracts.

In addition to the $3 million from NSF, each year the Legislature has appropriated $2 million and the universities have contributed $2.5 million, making Alabama the national leader in non-federal contributions to this program. This seed money is expected to return major dividends to the state as the universities' improved research capabilities lead to federal contracts and the economic impact they can deliver.

This effort, known as the Experimental Project to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), targeted several fields as the focus of this effort—materials science, physics, cell biology, astronomy and mathematics. In the last two years, this project has made more than $23 million available to researchers at The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, Auburn University and the University of South Alabama.

This project has enabled the university to hire additional faculty and to improve their competitiveness by supplying needed funds. In the first seven months of fiscal year 1987-88, 95 separate research proposals totalling more than $11 million were awarded funding.

Also, the 57 researchers involved in the project have published 204 manuscripts and made 245 presentations at regional, national and international meetings. This enhancement of Alabama's research expertise is an important element in the program's effort to make the state a research leader.

This effort has also enhanced the interaction of Alabama researchers with their peers from other states. During 1987, EPSCoR sponsored the Alabama Materials Research Conference and the Auburn Cell Biology EPSCoR Seminar Series.

ALABAMA INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL ON ENGINEERING EDUCATION (AICEE)

The Alabama Industrial Council on Engineering Education (AICEE) was established in 1987 to "articulate more effectively the economic benefits which could be derived from a well-planned system of engineering education in the state." The members of AICEE, who include some of the more notable engineering executives in Alabama, give insight into the planning and evaluation of engineering programs.

During 1988, the Council developed an analysis of the cost of engineering education on a per-student basis at each of the state's universities and the number of student credit hours produced per faculty member. These data are now being compared to similar standards throughout the country.

In the coming year, the Council plans to sponsor a symposium that will address the role of engineering education in Alabama's economic development.

The chairman of AICEE is **Sabert Oglesby, Jr.**, president emeritus of Southern Research Institute, and the vice-chairman is **Dr. William C. McCorkle**, director, U.S. Army Missile Command, Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The members of AICEE are: **Raymond Bishop**, Drummond Coal; **Jack W. Boykin**, Wesley Industries; **A. Frazier Christy**, Paragon Engineering; **John M. Cockerham**, Cockerham and Associates; **J. Ernest Farnell**, Farnell & Associates; **Calvin Ford**, IBM; **Edwin M. Hardin**, Rust Internal Corporation; **J. Thomas Holton**, Sherman Industries; **Olin B. King**, SCI Systems Inc.; **T. Keith King**, David Volker & Associates.

Other members are **William F. Land**, Harbert International, Inc.; **Charles A. Long, Jr.**, Sullivan, Long, Hagerty; **Donald R. Lucas**, Alabama Highway Department; **John Mincy**, Ciba-Geigy Corporation; **F. Brooks Moore**, Control Dynamics Company; **Joseph C. Moquin**, Teledyne Brown Engineering; **H. E. Myers**, BCM Converse Company; **Donald L. Parker**, Quality Micro Systems; **Eugene G. Cowart**, Boeing Aerospace Co.; **J. R. Thompson**, NASA; and **Paul Wildes**, Alabama Gas Corporation.

NETWORK OF ALABAMA ACADEMIC LIBRARIES (NAAL)

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries is a consortium of the Commission and 17 academic institutions offering graduate education, established to coordinate sharing of library materials and to enhance the quality of library resources for the benefit of Alabama's students, faculty and other researchers.

In 1984, NAAL began work on a statewide computer listing of all the print materials available at the 17 member libraries. By the end of fiscal year 1988, the NAAL members had converted 85 percent of the bibliographic records for the data

base. The records existing in 1984, coupled with the titles received in the libraries since then, will produce a computer database that will enable the user to determine the location of more than 4 million books. These resources are available through interlibrary loan to all of Alabama's students, faculty and other scholars.

NAAL also works to insure that the resources of any member institution are available for use by students, faculty, and other scholars at any other college or university in the state through "interlibrary loans". Each NAAL member makes its resources available statewide on the same basis that it loans them to its own users. Since 1985, NAAL funding has helped finance more than 44,000 interlibrary loans.

As each NAAL member completely converts its bibliographic records to machine-readable format, it may use its NAAL funds for collection development. Since 1985, a total of $434,136 in NAAL funds has been used to strengthen collections in Alabama academic libraries.

During 1987-88, NAAL provided in service training in the conversion of bibliographic records for government publications. In addition, NAAL grants supplemented funding for member librarians to attend an American Library Association institute on intellectual freedom and to visit two national laboratories that specialize in the conservation of library materials.

The general members of NAAL are: Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Birmingham-Southern College, Jacksonville State University, Livingston University, Samford University, Spring Hill College, Troy State University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of Montevallo, University of North Alabama and University of South Alabama.

ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

During 1988, 46 Alabama residents took advantage of the Academic Common Market, a program that allowed them to enroll in programs in other states without paying out-of-state tuition. This cooperative effort between the members of the Southern Regional Education Board allows Alabama residents to avoid the out-of-state tuition if the degree program is not offered in the state of Alabama.

The Commission administers this program, which is designed to make higher education more affordable, reduce unnecessary duplication and enable students to achieve their career goals. By joining hands with the 14 states that participate in this program, Alabama made some 431 programs available to out-of-state students in 1988.

This cooperative effort is offered through the Southern Regional Education Board, a consortium of 15 southern states—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

TITLE II OF THE EDUCATION FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

During 1987-88 the State of Alabama received slightly more than $375,000 through the Title II of the Education for Economic Security Act. The funding was used to support inservice and retaining programs for elementary and secondary teachers in the areas of Computer Science, Foreign Languages and Mathematics/ Science.

Computer Competency Program

This effort, designed to improve teachers' use and knowledge of computers in a cost effective manner, produced a series of four video tapes that were aired on Alabama Public Television. Copies of the tapes were also distributed to every school system with permission to reproduce as needed. Public television stations in North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana have also been given permission to use the tapes.

The budget for the development of the tapes was $130,000, an average cost per school district of $1000 for four hours of videotaped instruction. Title II funding appropriated to the project was in the amount of $90,000, with Troy State University, grant recipient for this project, contributing $40,000.

Foreign Language Program

The Commission's Consortium for the advancement of Foreign Language Education is designed to provide increased opportunities of retraining and in-service for foreign language teachers.

During 1988, eight teachers were awarded $2,900 grants to travel abroad and study the language in the country where it is spoken. Every foreign language teacher in the state also received the 1988 edition of an information directory that includes information on state, regional, national and international activities, a bibliography of current works on foreign language methodology, and the foreign language entrance and graduation requirements of Alabama colleges and universities.

With Title II funds, the state also offered Summer Institutes, Outreach Institutes and Weekend Seminars designed to help improve the training of existing teachers and help other teachers reach certification. The state worked with the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages to help improve teaching methods and evaulators of the teachers' oral proficiency in the language they teach.

Mathematics and Science

Three project grants were awarded to provide inservice training to teachers of learning disabled students in the areas of mathematics and science. The objective was to improve skills and techniques as well as offer resources that would improve the teaching of these subject areas to learning disabled students. The projects included a series of one-day workshops throughout the state, a five-day workshop and a teacher exchange program.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

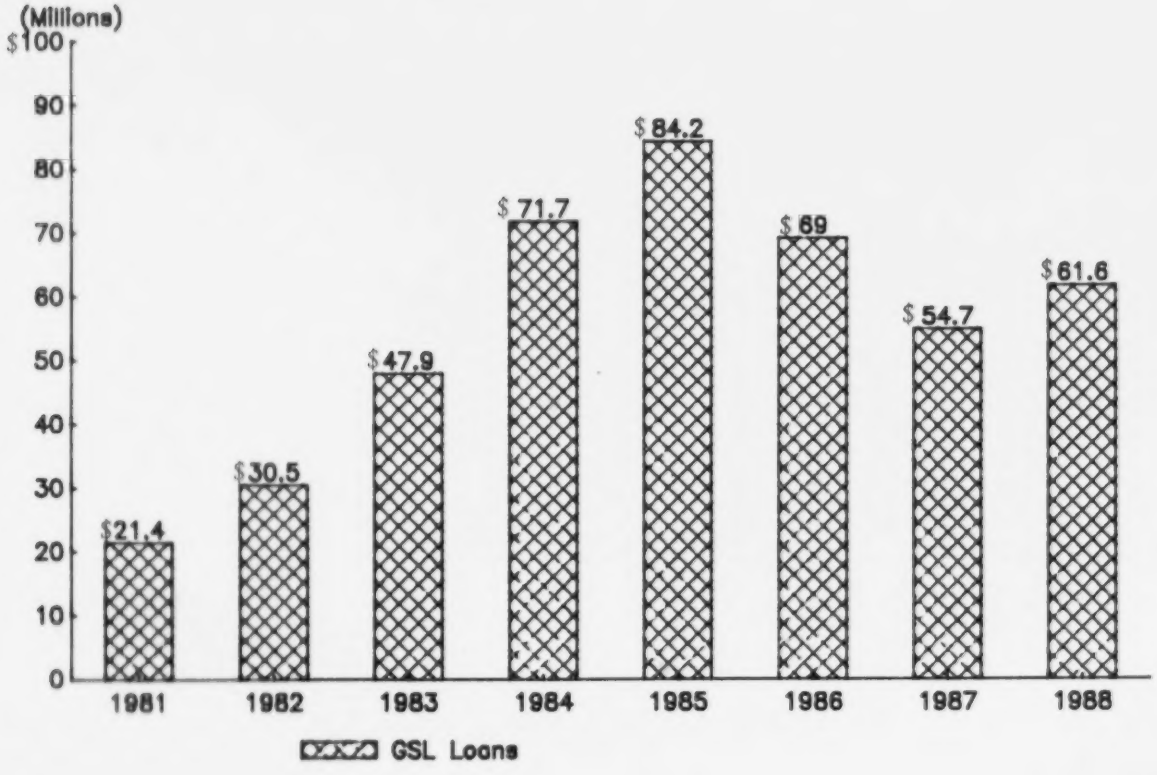
ALABAMA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM (AGSLP)

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program, making low-interest loans available to college students, continued to be an important asset to the State of Alabama, its students, schools and lending institutions during 1988. This program is often the single most important factor enabling students to pursue their education beyond high school.

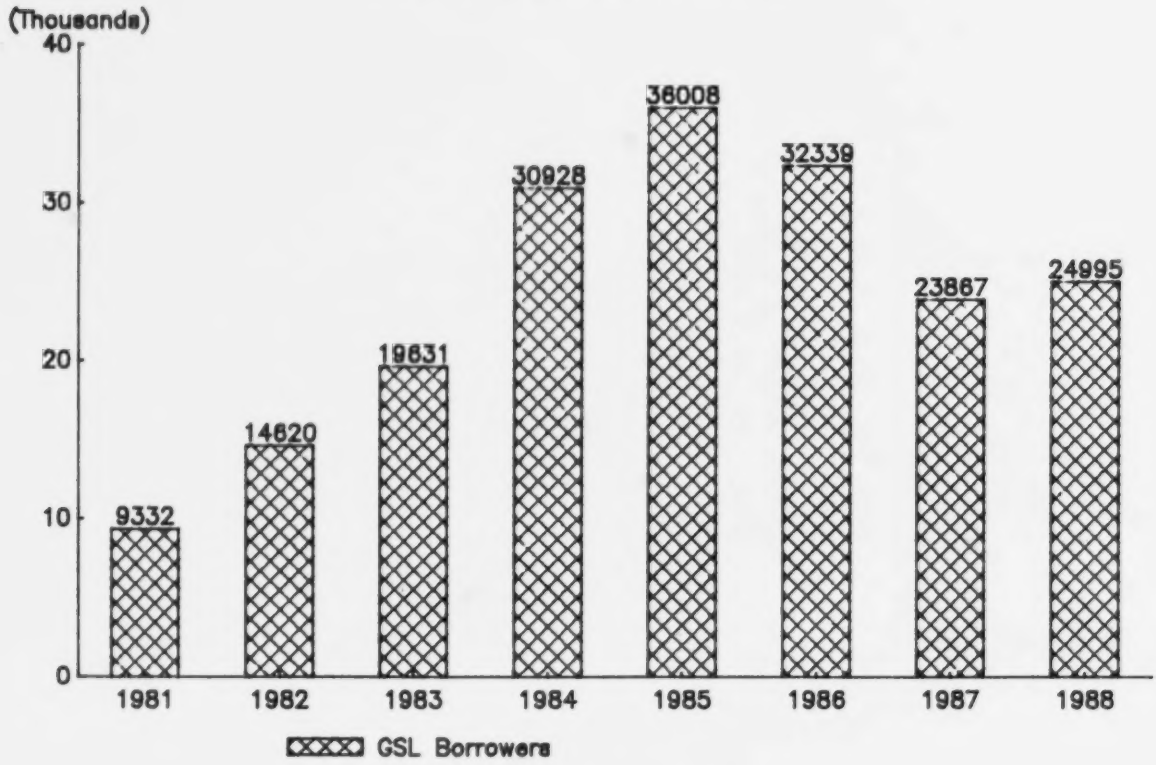
Activity in the program in 1988 underwent many changes—new requirements that all loans be based on the financial need of the student and his/her family; the establishment of new application procedures, interest rates and repayment schedules; and the change of the name of Guaranteed Student Loans to Stafford Loans. To help financial officials cope with these changes, the Commission conducted a series of training sessions that reached more than 200 representatives of the 71 financial institutions that directly serve the students.

The Alabama GSL Program has one of the fastest application turnaround times in the country, usually taking only two days to evaluate, process and either guarantee, reduce or deny the application.

GSL LOANS GUARANTEED



GSL BORROWERS



The Stafford Loan Program is designed by Congress to provide access to education through loans to needy college students. And although more than 85 percent of the students who receive one of these loans meet their repayment obligations, the Commission is concerned about loan defaults.

During 1988, the Commission implemented a new default aversions department. Representatives of the Commission now contact delinquent borrowers and use a combination of collection and counseling techniques to headoff defaults.

The new federal regulations also require ACHE to report all loan delinquencies to the national credit bureau and to file suit against all defaulters. The Commission also retains any state income tax refunds due defaulted borrowers.

During the first special session of 1988, the Legislature approved changes that put the state's law on the loan program in line with federal guidelines and that allow the Commission to better meet the needs of the financial institutions and the borrowers.

Applications for Stafford Loans are available at the colleges and universities.

ALABAMA STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM (ASGP)
(named Alabama Educational Grant Program in SETF Budget)

Alabama residents enrolled in independent, nonprofit Alabama colleges and universities receive financial assistance through the Alabama Student Grant Program.

In 1988, this program distributed nearly $3 million to almost 7,000 students enrolled at Birmingham-Southern College, Concordia College, Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Judson College, Miles College, Mobile College, Oakwood College, Samford University, Selma University, Southeastern Bible College, Spring Hill College and Stillman College.

The awards are limited by law to $600 per student, but the maximum award for 1988 was $570 because of limited funding for the program.

ALABAMA STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ASAP)

Designed to assist financially-needy students enrolled in Alabama postsecondary institutions, the Alabama Student Assistance Program provided nearly 4,000 students with money for their college education in 1988.

The Alabama Legislature saved the program during the 1987 session by making a direct appropriation of $1.2 million in the 1987-88 education budget. Federal regulations now require a direct state appropriation in order to qualify for the federal matching money.

Since the 1981-82 academic year, colleges and universities that received federal monies were required to provide matching funds from institutional resources. More than $2.2 million in grant funds were distributed to Alabama students in 1987-88 and the average award was $576 per student.

EMERGENCY SECONDARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (ESESP)

An outgrowth of Alabama's Education Reform Commission, this program is aimed at enhancing the state's elementary and secondary schools by encouraging college students to teach critical subject areas in Alabama after graduation. The

guidelines of this program allow a student to receive up to $4,000 during his or her junior and senior years of college.

During 1988, nearly $905,000 in state money was awarded to 263 students who agreed to teach mathematics, science and computer science for three years after graduation. By the end of the 1988 fiscal year, more than 286 previous students who had participated in this program were teaching in public schools in 56 of Alabama's 67 counties.

Changes approved by the Alabama Legislature during 1988 will make more scholarships available because repayments made by students who fail to fulfill their teaching requirements can now be used to make additional scholarships. The Legislature also opened the program to graduates with non-education degrees who want to return to college to become teachers in the critical needs areas.

STATE OF ALABAMA CHIROPRACTIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (SACSP)

Funded by the state Legislature, this program is designed to provide scholarship assistance to Alabama residents with financial need who are enrolled in accredited chiropractic colleges. In 1988, 17 eligible students received a total of $57,845.

ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ANGEAP)

Available to members of the Alabama National Guard, this program awarded $198,000 to 650 students in 1988. For the third year in a row, the number of eligible applications exceeded the available funds allocated to the program.

POLICE OFFICER'S AND FIREFIGHTER'S SURVIVOR'S EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (POFSEAP)

The program, financed from the General Fund, is intended to cover tuition, fees, and book and supply expenses for undergraduate study at Alabama public colleges and universities for dependents and spouses of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. During fiscal year 1988, nearly $25,000 in assistance was provided to 15 recipients. In the 1987 regular session, the Alabama Legislature transferred the administration of this program from the State Department of Education to the Commission.

SUMMARY CHART

STATE-SUPPORTED STUDENT ASSISTANCE 1987-88

	NUMBER OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AWARD	TOTAL OF PROGRAM
Alabama Student Grant Program	6,945	$ 570	$2.97 mil.
Alabama Student Assistance Program	3,924	576	$ 2.2 mil.
Emergency Secondary Education Scholarship Program	263	3,440	$ 904,960
State of Alabama Chiropractic Scholarship Program	17	3,402	$ 57,845
Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	650	305	$ 198,000
Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program	15	1,600	$ 25,000

Applications for these programs are available from college financial aid officers or the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.